AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A research-and-development securities selling method comprising the steps of:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information; and

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information and discloses the research-theme information through a communication network.

2.   (currently amended): A research-and-development securities selling method comprising <u>the steps of</u>:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section generates an investment set by selecting a predetermined plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information in an identical research group or similar research groups according to the research-group identification information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, and stores

disclosure information which includes the research-group identification information, the plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information in association with investment-set identification information; and

a step in which the processing section discloses the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base through a communication network.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to Claim 2, wherein the processing section selects a plurality of research themes by combining research themes having a predetermined profit-index rank or research themes in a plurality of profit-index ranks according to the profit-index rank of each research theme among the identical research group or the similar research groups, and generates one investment set with a predetermined number of research themes.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 1 and 2, wherein the step in which the processing section reads each information comprises:

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a research-plan data base having stored for each research-theme identification information, the research-plan information which includes the research-group identification information and the research-budget information;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a research-result data base having stored for each research-theme identification information, the research-result information which includes the patent information or the academic-society-presentation information;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a research-money-balance data base having stored for each research-theme identification information, the income information and the expense information related to the research theme; and

a step in which the processing section reads information corresponding to research-theme identification information from an expected-result data base having stored for each research-

theme identification information, the income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, the success-probability information E, and the income estimate information.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the processing section calculates the risk coefficient I according to the following equation by using the expenses which includes the obtained total research investment A and the obtained future research investment B, and an income estimate which includes the license fee income estimate H, an information-disclosure-charge income estimate F obtained from an information-disclosure contract for disclosing the research-result information read from the storage section, and an optional-charge income estimate G obtained from an optional contract for providing the research result for a company within a defined period before a license contract is made,

$$I = (A + B)/(F + G + H).$$

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to ~~one of~~ Claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, further comprising the steps of:

a step in which the processing section performs authentication according to investor information which includes investor identification information and a password, sent from an investor terminal;

a step in which, when the authentication has been successfully performed, the processing section receives investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme or the identification information of an investment set in which investment is to be made, and the amount of investment, sent from the investor terminal, and stores the investor information and the investment-content information in an investment-information data base in association with the investor identification information;

a step in which the processing section issues or outputs a certificate for a research-and-development investment security corresponding to the amount of investment; and

a step in which the processing section adds an amount of money corresponding to the amount of investment for each research-theme identification information to the total At of

investment distributions made by investors, stored in the storage section for each research-theme identification information.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to Claim 6, wherein the processing section distributes the amount of investment to each of a plurality of research themes included in the investment set according to the investment-content information corresponding to the received investment-set identification information.

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 6 and 7, further comprising the steps of:

a step in which the processing section receives information related to the investor and required for registration from the investor terminal;

a step in which the processing section gives investor identification information and a password after receiving the information related to the investor, and transmits these data items to the investor terminal; and

a step in which the processing section stores the password and the information related to the investor in the investment-information data base in association with the investor identification information.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 8, further comprising the steps of:

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the identification information of each research theme to which a profit is to be distributed, according to investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment for each investor identification information, read from an investment-information data base having stored the investment-content information;

a step in which the processing section distributes, for research-theme identification information, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information

read from the storage section, according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with the research-theme identification information in the storage section; and

a step in which the processing section distributes the dividends to all investors read from the storage section, to each investor identification information according to the amount of investment corresponding to the investor identification information read from the investment-information data base, and stores the distributed dividend in the investment-information data base correspondingly to each investor identification information.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 8, further comprising the steps of:

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the each investment set identification information to which a profit is to be distributed, according to investment-content information which includes investment-set identification information and the amount of investment for investor identification information, read from an investment-information data base having stored the investment-content information, and disclosure information read from a disclosure-information data base;

a step in which the processing section refers to the investment-information data base, to each research-theme identification information included in an investment set specified by the investment-set identification information, distributes the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section and the total research investment A according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with each research theme included in the investment set, in the storage section;

a step in which the processing section refers to the storage section, totals the dividends to all investors for all research themes included in the investment set and obtains the total amount S of dividends to investors for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a dividend to each investor from the total amount S of dividends to all investors, according to the ratio of the amount T of investment of corresponded the investor identification information to the total investment Ts made by all investors, for each investment set; and

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividend to each investor in the investment-information data base corresponding to the investor identification information in the investment-information data base.

11. (currently amended) A research-and-development securities selling method comprising the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the identification information of each research theme to which a profit is to be distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to research-theme identification information, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information

read from the storage section, according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with the research-theme identification information in the storage section; and

a step in which the processing section distributes the dividends to all investors read from the storage section to each investor identification information according to the amount of investment corresponding to the investor identification information read from the investment-information data base, and stores the distributed dividend in the investment-information data base correspondingly to each investor identification information.

12. (currently amended) A research-and-development securities selling method comprising the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to the investment-set identification information from disclosure-information data base having stored disclosure information which includes research-group identification information, a plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the each investment set identification information to which a profit is to be

distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information, and the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to each research-theme identification information included in an investment set specified by the investment-set identification information according to information read from the investment-information data base, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section and the total research investment A according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with each research theme included in the investment set, in the storage section;

a step in which the processing section totals the dividends to all investors for all research themes included in the investment set according to information read from the storage section to obtain the total amount S of dividends to investors for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a dividend to each investor from the total amount S of dividends to all investors according to the ratio of the amount T of investment of the investor identification information to the total investment Ts made by all investors, for each investment set; and

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividend to each investor in the investment-information data base corresponding to the investor identification information in the investment-information data base.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 11 and 12, wherein the processing section uses one of or totals any of information-disclosure income LA obtained when research-result information is disclosed to a reduction-to-practice organization of research-and-development results, optional-contract income LB obtained when an experimental license contract is made with the reduction-to-

practice organization for a certain period, and license fee income LC obtained when a license contract is made with the reduction-to-practice organization to obtain the whole consideration L for research and development which is the sum of research-and-development consideration income obtained when a technology is transferred to the reduction-to-practice organization, for the research-theme identification information; and

the processing section distributes, to the research-theme identification information, the whole consideration L for research and development according to a distribution rate Y determined in advance and recorded in the research-money-balance information, the total At of investment distributions made by investors, and the total research investment A for the research-theme identification information, and calculates dividends to all investors who have invested in the research-theme identification information.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The research-and-development securities selling method according to one of Claim[[s]] 11 and 12, wherein the processing section calculates a business income dividend X for the research-theme identification information according to a business income profit P recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section and a business-income-profit dividend rate Q determined in advance; and

the processing section calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information from the business income dividend X according to the total At of investment distributions made by investors, recorded in the research-money-balance information and the total research investment A.

15. (currently amended) A research-and-development securities selling program which makes a computer execute each of steps wherein; the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the

research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information; and

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information and discloses the research-theme information through a communication network.

16. (original)   A research-and-development securities selling program which makes a computer execute each of steps wherein;

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in

the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section generates an investment set by selecting a predetermined plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information in an identical research group or similar research groups according to the research-group identification information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, and stores disclosure information which includes the research-group identification information, the plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information in association with investment-set identification information; and

a step in which the processing section discloses the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base through a communication network.

17. (currently amended) A research-and-development securities selling program which makes a computer execute ~~each of steps wherein;~~ the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

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a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the identification information of each research theme to which a profit is to be distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to research-theme identification information, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with the research-theme identification information in the storage section; and

a step in which the processing section distributes the dividends to all investors read from the storage section to each investor identification information according to the amount of investment corresponding to the investor identification information read from the investment-information data base, and stores the distributed dividend in the investment-information data base correspondingly to each investor identification information.

18. (original) A research-and-development securities selling program which makes a computer ~~execute each of steps wherein;~~ the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to the investment-set identification information from disclosure-information data base having stored disclosure information which includes research-group identification information, a plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the each investment set identification information to which a profit is to be distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information, and the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to each research-theme identification information included in an investment set specified by the investment-set identification information according to information read from the investment-information data base, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section and the total research investment A according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with each research theme included in the investment set, in the storage section;

a step in which the processing section totals the dividends to all investors for all research themes included in the investment set according to information read from the storage section to obtain the total amount S of dividends to investors for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a dividend to each investor from the total amount S of dividends to all investors according to the ratio of the amount T of investment of the investor identification information to the total investment Ts made by all investors, for each investment set; and

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividend to each investor in the investment-information data base corresponding to the investor identification information in the investment-information data base.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a research-and-development securities selling program stored thereon; where the program makes the computer execute steps wherein; the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the

income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information; and

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information and discloses the research-theme information through a communication network.

20. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a research-and-development securities selling program stored thereon; where the program makes the computer execute ~~steps wherein;~~ the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored for each research-theme identification information, research-plan information which includes research-group identification information and research-budget information, research-result information which includes patent information or academic-society-presentation information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to the research theme, and expected-result information which includes, income-estimate information other than that of a license fee, the market-value information D of a research target, success-probability information E, and income estimate information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a total research investment A up to now according to the expense information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates future research investment B by subtracting the total research investment A from the research-budget information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a license fee income estimate H according to the income-estimate information recorded in the expected-result information, according to each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates a risk coefficient I according to the ratio of the amount of expenses which includes the total research investment A and the future research investment B to the amount of income which includes the license fee income estimate H and the income-estimate information other than that of the license fee recorded in the expected-result data, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a profit index R indicating an estimated probability of obtaining a profit when a research theme is reduced to business, according to the ratio of the market-value information D and the success-probability information E recorded in the expected-result information to the risk coefficient I, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section ranks a profit-index rank according to the value of the profit index R, for each research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores research-theme information which includes the total research investment A, the future research investment B, the risk coefficient I, the profit-index rank, and the research-result information in a research-theme data base in association with the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section generates an investment set by selecting a predetermined plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information in an identical research group or similar research groups according to the research-group identification information recorded in the research-plan information read from the storage section, and stores disclosure information which includes the research-group identification information, the plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information in association with investment-set identification information; and

a step in which the processing section discloses the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base through a communication network.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a research-and-development securities selling program stored thereon; where the program makes the computer execute ~~steps wherein;~~ the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the identification information of each research theme to which a profit is to be distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to research-theme identification information, the whole consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section, according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with the research-theme identification information in the storage section; and

a step in which the processing section distributes the dividends to all investors read from the storage section to each investor identification information according to the amount of

investment corresponding to the investor identification information read from the investment-information data base, and stores the distributed dividend in the investment-information data base correspondingly to each investor identification information.

22. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a research-and-development securities selling program stored thereon; where the program makes the computer ~~execute steps wherein;~~ perform the following steps:

a step in which a processing section reads each information corresponding to research-theme identification information from a storage section having stored, for each research-theme identification information, research-money-balance information which includes income information and expense information related to a research them, the total research investment A, and the total At of investment distributions made by investors;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to investor identification information from investment-information data base having stored, for each investor identification information, investment-content information which includes the identification information of a research theme in which investment is to be made and the amount of investment;

a step in which the processing section reads each information corresponding to the investment-set identification information from disclosure-information data base having stored disclosure information which includes research-group identification information, a plurality of pieces of research-theme identification information, and a plurality of pieces of research-theme information for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section calculates the total investment Ts made by investors for the each investment set identification information to which a profit is to be distributed, according to the investment-content information read from the investment-information data base correspondingly to the investor identification information, and the disclosure information read from the disclosure-information data base;

a step in which the processing section distributes, to each research-theme identification information included in an investment set specified by the investment-set identification information according to information read from the investment-information data base, the whole

consideration L for research and development and/or a business income profit P included in the income information recorded in the research-money-balance information read from the storage section and the total research investment A according to the ratio of the total At of investment distributions or the total investment Ts to the total research investment A, and calculates dividends to all investors for the research-theme identification information;

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividends to all investors in association with each research theme included in the investment set, in the storage section;

a step in which the processing section totals the dividends to all investors for all research themes included in the investment set according to information read from the storage section to obtain the total amount S of dividends to investors for the investment-set identification information;

a step in which the processing section obtains a dividend to each investor from the total amount S of dividends to all investors according to the ratio of the amount T of investment of the investor identification information to the total investment Ts made by all investors, for each investment set; and

a step in which the processing section stores the calculated dividend to each investor in the investment-information data base corresponding to the investor identification information in the investment-information data base.